**Religion in North**

Conserve the union

Confederate= stopping forward progress

Advance of liberty= slowed down

Fighting not just for nation, but for all of humanity

Christian ministers illustrated war as millennial

North victory= Kingdom of God on earth

“It will come with blessings, and be greeted with Hallelujahs, it will be the Millennium of political glory, the Sabbath of Liberty, the Jubilee of humanity.” –Baptist minister, Philadelphia 1836 about defeat of rebellion

Excluded God from constitution

Religion was center of civil war

Both sides looked to God for meaning, interpreted differently, each side thought God was on their side

Victory= which side God supported, the chosen people

Momentum for North

**Slavery:**

Different opinions towards human bondage in different Northern churches

Some= sin/ immediate emancipation

Others: argued that Bible showed slavery as legitimate (Jesus lived in a world of slavery, and never denounced it)

Church leaders thought it should be abolished by slow and peaceful means

(denounced abolitionists’ attack on slaveholders)

waited for God’s resolution

**Religion in the South:**

“Uniquely Christian nation”

Confederate Constitution=”invoking the favor and guidance of Almighty God.” *Deo Vindice*: God will avenge

Dependant on God

North= “Godless government”

South’s victory at First Manassas on July 21, 1861= proved their nation under God

“holy war” said by newspaper, public gathering, military camp/ battle field

Women and children filled pews of churches

Effect: made women detest North, insisted their men to keep fighting

Doing God’s work on earth: Christianized African slaves

Justification for slaves: punishment for African paganism

Wins simmered down

**Secret Religion of Slaves:**

Secret religious gatherings

Black preachers: few literate slaves

Created powerful stories of redemption, freedom and retribution against white masters

Preached that God would change their earthly situation and punish slave holders

In presence of white observers, preached obedience of white masters

Courage to run away and join northern armies

Songs filled with pain but hope for rebellion

Wins simmered, south demoralized

Meetings held in every part of army

Chaplains in most brigades

No atheists in fox holes: fear of likely death= believer out of anyone

Religion formed South in Civil War

Gave it sacred identity

**Abraham Lincoln**

Christian

Used religion to enforce laws

Every regiment includes chaplain of “a Christian denomination”

Assisted religious organizations: U.S. Christian Commission

Read and quoted Bible throughout his life

While president, regularly attended New York Avenue Presbyterian Church

Never joined church

Speeches revealed spiritual perception far beyond ordinary

Second Inaugural Address of March 1865: “Both (North and South) read the same Bible, and pray to the same God; and each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God’s assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men’s faces; but let us judge not that we be not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered; that of neither has been answered fully. The Almighty has His own purposes.”

**Chaplains**

3000 chaplains to union forces

930 regimental chaplains

117 hospital chaplains

32 post chaplains

66 died in service during conflict

1000 chaplains

Old militia laws= each regiment needs 1 chaplain

Appointment vested in regimental commander

Chaplain= regularly ordained minister of a Christian denomination

Received pay of a captain cavalry

Act approved on August 3, 1861: Regimental chaplains could be of any religious denomination

Request by Board of Delegates of American Israelites to make provisions for Jewish chaplains

Considerable improvements made by act approved on April 9, 1864: Chaplains without command

Because before: controversy because they wore a captains uniform

Large amount of Roman Catholic chaplains

Appointment of first Jewish and Black chaplains

Duties: worship services conducted in tents

Themes: patriotism to the cause or admonitions against evil behavior

Evening prayer meetings, prayers at dress parades, officiating at weddings, baptisms, funerals and burials

Provided guidance and comfort to wounded

Taught illiterate soldiers to read and write

Wrote letters for wounded and dying soldiers

<http://www.angelfire.com/pa5/civilwarchaplain/>

<http://www.greatamericanhistory.net/leadership.htm>

<http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/tserve/nineteen/nkeyinfo/cwnorth.htm#aminot>

<http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/tserve/nineteen/nkeyinfo/cwsouth.htm>